this anti-people and unethical tendencies on the port of nationalised/scheduled banks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY): (a) Representations have been received by Government, Indian-Banks' Association (IBA) and Reserve Bank of India (RBI) from chambers of commerce, trade and industry, Individuals etc. against the increase in the service charges by banks. According to IBA, no representation has been received against lending rates.

(b) RBI have not issued any directive or guidelines regarding levy of service charges. RBI had announced revision of lending rates on 17th October 1994. The lending rates for credit limits over Rs. 2 lakhs were deregulated by RBI. The minimum lending rate is now re placed by prime lending rate which is decided by each bank individually with the aproval of their Board of Directors. However, to protect the borrowers availing of relatively lower credit limits, i.e. upto Rs. 2 lakhs, the lending rates continue to be prescribed by RBI.

(c) RBI have reported that since April 1992, banks have been given the freedom to determine the maturity and interest rates on term deposits subject only to a ceiling stipulation. Banks fix the interest rates on terms deposits of various maturities taking into account a number of fac tors.

India's Net Debt

2254. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that according to a news item in the "Hindustan Times' dated 24th January, 1995, India's net debt was $ 83.2 billion in 1993;

(b) if so, the net debt position as in 1994 and at on date;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government are considering to take further loans in 1995 and 1996;

(d) whether Government have drawn any plan to liquidate this debt; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY): (a) and (b) The news item in "The Hindustan Times' dated January 24, 1995 refers to the World Debt Tables published by the World Bank, according to which India's net debt was US $83.2 billion in 1993. However, according to the classification of debt adopted by the Government and published in the Economic Survey 1994-95, India's external debt (including NRI deposits and defence debt) was US $ 89.9 billion, US $ 90.7 billion and US $ 90.4 billion at the end of March 1993, March 1994 and September 1994 respectively.

(c) Government does not regard external bor rowing as a substitute for resource mobilisation through domestic efforts. However, external resources are mobilised, which is a continuous process, to bridge the gap between total invest ment outlays and internal resources available for the planned development of the economy. Fresh Loans are required to be taken for meeting the foreign exchange requirements of various project and non-project programmes according to our national plan priorities.

(d) and (e) External loans are being repaid on due dates according to the terms and condi tions of each loan agreement. Government is conscious about the country's external debt li ability and keeps a constant watch on the level of country's indebtedness and likely burden of debt servicing. The Government has already taken a number of steps to bring about improve ments in revenue receipts, to eliminate inessen tial and low priority expenditure, to boost ex port, to increase invisible earnings to ensure efficient import substitution, to increase non-debt creating in flow of foreign funds and to reduce dependence on borrowed funds for fi nancing expenditure.

Income Tex Amounting to Rupee One Crore or above

2255. SHRI MOHAMMAD AFZAL alias MEEM AFZAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of industrialists, firms and individuals in the country from income tax amounting to rupee one crore or above was outstanding on 31st March, 1994; and